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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY HA/HR:PJFLOOD:DIW  
APPROVED BY HA/HR:CBSALMON, JR.  
ARA/ECA:MMADAMS  
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ARA/ECA:JANDRE  
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ARA/ECA:CWRU.ER  
S/S-O:SSTAPLETON

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

( ) Release (X) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s): B1

Declassify: (X) In Part ( ) In Full

Classify as S ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date 4/11/01 Declassify on 4/11/11 Reason 25X1

-----119429 132151Z /65

O 132056Z SEP 79  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

[REDACTED] STATE 240799

[REDACTED] DECAPTIONED

E.O. 12065: RDS 09/10/85 (SALMON, C;ARLES B.)

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: CLANDESTINE PRISONERS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6706

.. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT).

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES EMBASSY'S THOROUGH AND PAIN-  
STAKING EFFORT TO CLARIFY OUR QUESTIONS CONCERNING  
ALLEGATIONS THAT THERE ARE CLANDESTINE PRISONERS AND  
DETENTION CENTERS. REFTEL HAS BEEN MOST HELPFUL. IT SEEMS  
CLEAR FROM REFTEL AND OTHER EMBASSY REPORTS (E.G., BA 6590)

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THAT VAST MAJORITY OF DISAPPEARED PERSONS HAVE NOT REAPPEARED IN PRISON UNDER PEN OR RESURFACED ELSEWHERE IN ARGENTINA OR ABROAD. MOST LOGICAL CONCLUSION IS THAT THEY ARE DEAD, UNLESS SOME MIGHT BE HELD IN SECRET FACILITIES. THE PEOPLE WHO DISAPPEARED IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS, FOR EXAMPLE, COULD BE IN THE LATTER CATEGORY, ALTHOUGH HARGUINDEGUY'S STATEMENT THAT HE KNOWS WHERE THEY ARE AND FOR WHAT CHARGES THEY ARE BEING HELD TENDS TO LEND CREDENCE TO THE REPORT THEY MAY RESURFACE SOON IN LEGAL DETENTION. THERE IS ALSO SOME EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT SOME EARLIER 1979 AND 1978 DISAPPEARERS ARE IN SECRET FACILITIES (SEE BELOW). WE HAVE NO INFORMATION WHICH WOULD CONFLICT WITH YOUR

JUDGMENT THAT THE LIKELIHOOD OF THERE BEING SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF CLANDESTINE PRISONERS IS SMALL AND THAT IF THERE ARE ANY THEY WOULD NUMBER IN THE HUNDREDS AT THE MOST. WE ALSO RECOGNIZE THE DIFFICULTIES IN ACQUIRING HARD INFORMATION ON A SUBJECT OF THIS NATURE. HOWEVER, THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS HAVE OCCURRED TO US ON WHICH WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE AND ANALYSIS PROVIDED THIS CAN BE PROVIDED FROM INTERNAL EMBASSY FILES AND SOURCES. NO OUTSIDE INQUIRY SHOULD BE MOUNTED AT THIS TIME SINCE TO DO SO MIGHT INTERFERE WITH THE AHRC VISIT OR SERVE TO IDENTIFY THE USG WITH THE VISIT.

REFTEL NOTES EMBASSY HAS REPORTS FROM SECONDARY SOURCES ON POST-1977 DETENTIONS IN CLANDESTINE CENTERS. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO US TO HAVE THE APPROXIMATE DATES OF THESE DETENTIONS AND YOUR FURTHER EVALUATION OF THE SOURCE'S RELIABILITY. BUENOS AIRES 6227 REPORTED THAT THE FATHER OF ALFREDO ANTONIO GIORGI SAID HE HAD RECEIVED SEVERAL REPORTS THAT HIS SON IS BEING HELD AT

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HE NAVY MECHANICS SCHOOL. THE MOST RECENT SOURCE CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN GIORGI THERE IN MID-JULY. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY MORE RECENT INFO YOU MAY HAVE ON THIS CASE AS WELL AS YOUR EVALUATION OF THE SOURCES.

ALSO, [REDACTED] IS SKEPTICAL THAT THERE ARE LARGE NUMBERS OF CLANDESTINE PRISONERS. IT IS QTE AWARE OF POSSIBLY ONE CLANDESTINE PRISONER

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DETENTION/INTERROGATION CENTER NEAR THE AIRPORT IN BUENOS AIRES WHICH MIGHT HOLD A FEW DOZEN UNQTE. COULD THIS BE THE "PUENTE DOCE" OR PAZ-RICCHIERI FACILITY, OR THE LA TABLADA INFANTRY BARRACKS FACILITY MENTIONED IN THE PAST? ARE ANY OF THESE IDENTICAL WITH ONE OF THE EZEIZA-AREA FACILITIES MENTIONED IN 78 STATE 215022? WOULD APPRECIATE ANY FURTHER INFORMATION YOU CAN PROVIDE ON THE FACILITY MENTIONED [REDACTED] ]

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1. WE HAVE ALSO SEEN PUBLIC STATEMENT DATED JULY 4, 1979 OF ESTRELLA IGLESIAS, WHO DISAPPEARED AUGUST 11, 1978 AND WAS HELD INCOMMUNICADO UNTIL OCTOBER 31. SHE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED THROUGH EFFORTS OF SPANISH EMBASSY (SHE HOLDS SPANISH CITIZENSHIP) AND ALLOWED TO LEAVE FOR SPAIN. COPY OF TESTIMONY BEING POUCHED TO EMBASSY. 2. IGLESIAS NAMED SEVERAL OTHER PEOPLE AS CO-INMATES, INCLUDING BEATRIZ PEROSIO, ABRAHAM HOCHMAN, MAURICIO POLTARAK, AND OTHER HIGH-US INTEREST CASES. SHE SAYS SHE WAS BEING HELD AT THE LA TABLADA INFANTRY REGIMENT FACILITY.

3. THE EMBASSY REPORTED EARLIER THIS YEAR THAT CERTAIN ILLEGITIMATE PRISONERS MAINTAINED CONTACT WITH FAMILY MEMBERS THROUGHOUT 1977 AND 1978 BUT THAT RELATIVES SAID THE CONTACTS WERE BROKEN IN JANUARY. DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL DETAILS OR COMMENTS ON WHY THESE CONTACTS WERE TERMINATED?

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4. OFFICERS SERVING IN THE DEPARTMENT RECALL THAT ARGENTINE 601 INTELLIGENCE BATTALION REPORTED IN LATE 1978 AND EARLY 1979 THAT ARGENTINE SECURITY FORCES WERE HOLDING AT THOSE RESPECTIVE TIMES 500 AND 200 UNRECOGNIZED PRISONERS. WHAT IS THE SOURCE'S RELIABILITY? HAS THERE BEEN MORE RECENT INFORMATION ON THE SUBJECT FROM THIS SOURCE? CAN YOU SHED ANY LIGHT ON WHY THE REPORTED FIGURES DROPPED BY 300?

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